

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/960,512

Examiner

Traci L Smith

Applicant(s)

RITZEL, WILLIAM D.

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/24/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09/24/2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dolph Torrence Agent No. 34501 on January 14, 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

3.

Claim1

A reference repository system for jobseekers ~~A repository for jobseekers' references on the internet the comprising:~~

- prospective employee or jobseeker computer in two-way communication with said Internet;
- a named reference source or author computer in communication with said Internet;
- a recruiter/employer computer in two-way communication said Internet;
- an employee reference server in two-way communication said Internet;
- and a databank in two-way communication with said employee reference server ~~using an appropriate computer software program;~~
- whereby the jobseeker, through their said computer, registers their demographic information and references with said reference server for entry into said database,
- said employee reference server, upon receiving each said reference from the jobseeker, sends an e-mail to said reference ~~Employer~~ **source** requesting a reference document for said jobseeker;
- whereby said reference source, through their said computer, provides said reference document to said employee reference server for entry into said database;
- whereby said recruiter/employer, accesses a list designating said jobseeker references and chooses and receives desired jobseeker reference documents;

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- and whereby said recruiter/employer, through their said gains access to a list of documents existing in said data base through said employee reference server, selects desired reference documents, and receives images of said desired reference documents upon payment of a preset fee.

Claim 2

The reference ~~depository~~ **repository** system of claim 1, further comprising

- means establishing a merchant account in two-way ~~contact~~ communication with said employee reference server and, **over the internet**
- ~~by means of said Internet,~~ said recruiter/employer computer, whereby said recruiter/employer purchases said desired reference documents images for e-mail
- delivery from said database ~~by means of~~ said employee reference Server.

Claim 9

The method of claim 8, wherein a process is provided for said recruiter/employer to open a merchant account, whereby said recruiter/employer purchases said selected documents on said ~~shopping list~~ **checkout list**

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: After a thorough search of prior art the examiner is unable to identify any prior art that met the limitations and novelty of the current application. The best prior art Non-Patent Literature article Business Wire; September 7, 2000; "Recruitesoft.com announces Van Ella Alliance for Online Candidate Background Check. The article talks about a method of doing "automated" background checks. The website does basically the equivalent of a criminal background check with the information that was supplied to the website via a prospective employer. The prior art fails to teach a system and method where the prospective employee actually submits their reference information. The prior art further

fails to teach a system and method where a communication is automatically sent to the reference source requesting reference information.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent 6 385 620 B1 Kurzius et al; A system and method for the management of candidate recruiting information. Foreign Patent JP 2004302972A Data Access control apparatus acquires reference information with respect to user identification through manage table.

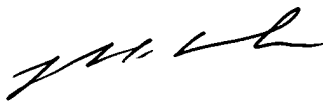
6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Traci L Smith whose telephone number is (703)605-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703.308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600